**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, when the image reading apparatus executes the shading correction for color image signals and monochromatic image signals and then reads images, at the time of reading color images, the time required for the shading correction for monochromatic image signals becomes useless for reading color images and the **[[fast]]** **first** (scan) copy time (the time required for reading the first image to be read) is delayed.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 19, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The light entering the reduction lens 11 is focused on light receiver 12a of four line CCD sensor 12. The ~~???light~~ **light** focused on the four line CCD sensor 12 is photoelectrically converted sequentially by four line sensors R, G, and B corresponding to, for example, R, G, and BK images which are complementary colors of C, M, and Y and outputted at a predetermined timing.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 20, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the **[[fast]]** **first** copy time is given priority at the time of turning on power, the shading correction is executed for a monochromatic image signal and a color image signal outputted from four line CCC sensor 12. Namely, shading correction circuits 45a to 45d respectively store digital monochromatic image signals and digital color image signals from the BK line sensor and R, G, and B line sensors when the shading correction circuits receive the reflected light from white reference plate 51 (white reference **data**).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 20, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The shading correction executes the normalization indicated in the following formula on the basis of the black reference **data** and white reference **data** which are pre-read and corrects uneven intensity of illumination of image data and element variations.

$I = k- (S-K)/(W-K)$ --- (1)

where k indicates a coefficient, S image data before correction, K the black reference **data** (stored in the black memory), and W the white reference **data** (stored in the white memory).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 22, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, light source 7 is turned on at Step #2 and then at Step #3, the same white shading operation as the aforementioned is executed. Namely, first carriage 13 is moved under white reference plate 51 and here, light emitted from light source 7 is irradiated to white reference plate 51. The reflected light from white reference plate 51 enters reduction lens 11 via first and second carriages 13 and 14 and is focused on light receiver 12a of four line CCD sensor 12. And, only monochromatic image signals (white reference **data**) outputted from four line CCD sensor 12 are stored in shading correction circuit 45a.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 22, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, light source 7 is turned off at Step #4 and then at Step #5, the black shading operation is executed similarly to the aforementioned. Namely, monochromatic image signals (black reference **data**) outputted from the BK line sensor of four line CCD sensor 12 are stored in shading correction circuits 45a to 45d.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 23, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The output signals from the BK line sensor and R, G, and B line sensors which are amplified by amplifiers 42a to 42d are respectively converted to digital signals by A/D converters 44a to 44d and are input to shading correction circuits 45a to 45d. Here, when the monochromatic reading mode is selected from control panel 5, scanner CPU 43 operates

shading correction circuit 45a for executing the shading correction for a monochromatic image signal outputted from four line CCD sensor 12 and does not operate shading correction circuits 45b to 45d for executing the shading correction for a color image signal. By doing this, shading correction circuit 45a executes the normalization indicated in Formula (1) described above on the basis of the black reference **data** and white reference **data**, which are pre-read, as a shading correction.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 24, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When a plurality of documents are to be continuously read in the monochromatic reading mode, to read the first document, similarly to the aforementioned, the white reference **data** and black reference **data** are stored in shading correction circuit 45a and the shading correction is executed on the basis of the black reference **data** and white reference **data**.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 24, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When reading the second and subsequent documents, only the white reference **data** is stored in shading correction circuit 45a and the shading correction is executed on the basis of only the white reference **data**.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 24, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, light source 7 is turned on at Step #11 and then at Step #12, the same white shading operation as the aforementioned is executed. Namely, first carriage 13 is moved under white reference plate 51 and here, light emitted from light source 7 is irradiated to white reference plate 51. The reflected light from white reference plate 51 enters reduction lens 11 via first and second carriages 13 and 14 and is focused on light receiver 12a of four line CCD sensor 12. And, only color image signals (white reference **data**) outputted from four line CCD sensor 12 are stored in shading correction circuits 45b to 45d.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 25, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, light source 7 is turned off at Step #13 and then at Step #14, the black shading operation is executed similarly to the aforementioned and only color image signals (black reference **data**) outputted from four line CCD sensor 12 are stored in shading correction circuits 45a to 45d.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 25, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

By doing this, shading correction circuits 45b to 45d, which executes color correction of color signal, executes the normalization indicated in Formula (1) described above on the basis of the black reference **data** and white reference **data**, which are pre-read, as a shading correction.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 25, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When a plurality of documents are to be continuously read in the color reading mode, to read the first document, similarly to the aforementioned, the white reference **data** and black reference **data** are stored in shading correction circuits 45b to 45d and the shading correction is executed on the basis of the black reference **data** and white reference **data**.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 25, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When reading the second and subsequent documents, only the white reference **data** is stored in shading correction circuits 45b to 45d and the shading correction is executed on the basis of only the white reference **data**.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 26, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, at Step #22, similarly to the aforementioned, the white shading operation is executed via shading correction circuits of R, G, and B 45b to 45d (the white reference **data** for R, G, and B is stored).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 26, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, at Step #24, similarly to the aforementioned, the white shading operation is executed via shading correction circuit of BK 45a (the white reference **data** for monochromatic color is stored).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 26, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, light source 7 is turned off at Step #25 and then at Step #26, similarly to the aforementioned, the black shading operation is executed via shading correction circuit of BK 45a (the black reference **data** for monochromatic color is stored).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 26, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, at Step #28, similarly to the aforementioned, the black shading operation is executed via shading correction circuits of R, G, and B 45b to 45d (the black reference **data** for R, G, and B is stored).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 27, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When a plurality of documents are to be continuously read in the automatic color selection (ACS) reading mode, to read the first document, the automatic color selection (ACS) decision is executed for the first document. As a result of the decision, when the document is monochromatic, shading correction circuit 45a executes the shading correction on the basis of the black reference **data** and white reference **data** which are pre-stored. And, it reads the first document.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 27, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the first document is colored, shading correction circuits 45b to 45d execute the shading correction on the basis of only the pre-stored white reference **data**.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 27, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Then, to read the second document, the automatic color selection (ACS) decision is executed for the second document. As a result of the decision, when the document is monochromatic, similarly to the aforementioned, shading correction circuit 45a executes the shading correction on the basis of the black reference and white reference **data** which are pre-stored. And, it reads the second document.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 28, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the second document is colored, similarly to the aforementioned, shading correction circuits 45b to 45d execute the shading correction on the basis of only the pre-stored white reference **data**.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 28, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

To read the third and subsequent documents, the automatic color selection (ACS) decision is executed for each concerned document. As a result of the decision, when the document is monochromatic, similarly to the aforementioned, shading correction circuit 45a executes the shading correction on the basis of the black reference **data** and white reference **data** which are pre-stored. And, it reads the third and subsequent documents.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 28, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the concerned document is colored, similarly to the aforementioned, shading correction circuits 45b to 45d execute the shading correction on the basis of only the pre-stored white reference **data**. And, it reads the concerned document.